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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 10 December 1953

SUBJECT

Establishment of a Reserve of Medical Supplies

NO. OF PAGES

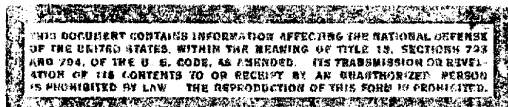
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DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The present supplies of the State Reserve include a stock of medical and pharmaceutical products for between twelve and fifteen million DME. Most of them are stored in a supply depot of the State Secretariat for the Administration of State Reserves in Rodewisch (Vogtland) under the supervision of depot manager Gerhard Oertel. Products requiring special storage are stored at other places. The present State Reserve insulin supply of 105 million International Units is stored partly at the DME Pharmazie und Krankenhausbedarf office at Dresden N6, Leipzigerstrasse 7-13, and partly in the low-temperature chambers of the central slaughter house in Berlin-Friedrichshagen. 600 billion International Units of penicillin are stored at VMD Jenapharm, Jena. Jenapharm probably also houses the State Reserve supply of 30 kilograms of streptomycin which were imported from abroad. One hundred liters of gripe-absorbat vaccine, other vaccines, tetanus serum and diphtheria serum are stored at the places where they are produced, that is, at Serumwerk Dessau, Serumwerk Berlin-Weissensee and Saechsisches Serumwerk Dresden. 1/
2. On 10 August 1953 the Council of Ministers decided to establish a so-called Operational Reserve of medical pharmaceutical products and to place it under the sole authority of the Minister for Health and the offices subordinated to him. The decision furthermore specified that the bulk of the supplies for the Operational Reserve should be taken out of the State Reserve and that the State Reserve in the future should only include raw materials and basic products which are to be delivered to the pharmaceutical and medical-industrial enterprises in case their production is threatened by the shortage of raw materials and basic products. All other pharmaceutical and medical supplies were to be incorporated into the Operational Reserve, so that the Ministry for Health could immediately distribute them to the pharmacies and other distribution centers (Red Cross) in case of epidemics and disasters. Funds amounting to fifteen million DME were approved for the Operational Reserve. It is to include 11 million International Units of insulin, 750 billion International Units of penicillin, 60 kilograms of streptomycin, vaccines, sera, a great number of medicaments, basic material for pharmacies for making medicaments, and large amounts of bleaching powder for decontamination, mainly gas decontamination.

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3. Transfer of those items of the Rodewisch depot which are to go into the Operational Reserve is scheduled to begin on 1 October 1953. The thirty kilograms of streptomycin now in the State Reserve will also be transferred to the Operational Reserve. The thirty kilograms still lacking will be imported. While at the moment the Operational Reserve exists on paper only, the Ministry for Health has already disposed of the State Reserve supply of grippe-adsorbat vaccine. In reply to an urgent plea made by Major General Prof. Walter², Chief of the Medical Administration in the Ministry of the Interior, and his supply specialist, Major Joedicke (fmu), a pharmacist, the entire State Reserve supply of this vaccine is to be delivered to the Volkspolizei immediately. Delivery is to be completed by 15 November 1953 at the latest.

- 1/ Comment. Of the enterprises mentioned, the first two are people-owned, and the third is private.

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2. Comment. Probably Professor Karl Walter, previously head of Gesundheitswesen - Inspection in the Ministry of Health, who served with the rank of Generalmajor in World War II and was a POW in Russia.

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